GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6137
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
PRICES OF ONIONS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onions will shoot up if export restrictions are removed in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the production recorded during 2000-01 and 2002-03; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to hold the price line so that the poor man`s consumption and pocket are not badly hit?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The removal of export restrictions will not have any adverse impact on onion prices due to higher production and easy availability at reasonable prices. The mechanism of canalization of exports through the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and other State designated agencies and the Inter-Ministerial Review Committee (IMRC) to review periodically the availability, prices and export of onion have been retained to protect the interest of the consumers.

The production of onion during 2000-2001 has been estimated by the Government at 45.51 lakh tonnes while the production for 2002-2003 has been placed at 54.89 lakh tonnes by the National Horticultural Research Development Foundation (NHRDF).